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NAKAMURA SADAYUKI**(54) STEEL FOR INDUCTION HARDENING EXCELLENT IN BENDABILITY AND INDUCTION HARDENED PART EXCELLENT IN BENDABILITY USING THE SAME STEEL****(57)Abstract:**

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To prevent brittle fracture in a steel even if excessive loads are applied by prescribing the contents of elements.

SOLUTION: It is effective for preventing the generation of brittle fracture even if excessive loads are applied and for preventing the fracture by bending deformation to incorporate B into the steel. Namely, by the addition of B, its bendability after induction hardening treatment can remarkably be improved. Furthermore, by the incorporation of Mn, Cr, Ni, Mo, or the like, this effect can moreover be improved. For this purpose, the contents of the elements are prescribed as follows: by weight, 0.30 to 0.60% C, ≤0.50% Si, 0.20 to 2.0% Mn, 0.0005 to 0.0050% B, ≤0.020% N, ≤0.1% Ti, also, the ratio of the contents of Ti to N: $3.42 \leq Ti/N \leq 8.0$, and the balance Fe or the like. If required, one or ≥two kinds among ≤1.50% Ni, ≤0.50% Mo, 0.50% V and ≤2.0% Cr may be incorporated therein.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] Steel for induction hardening from which the content of an alloy element is $3.42 \leq \text{Ti}/\text{N} \leq 8.0$ and which the ratio of the content of C:0.30 – 0.60%, Si: $\leq 0.50\%$, Mn:0.20–2.0%, B:0.0005 – 0.0050%, N: $\leq 0.020\%$, Ti: $\leq 0.1\%$, and Ti and N excels in the bending property characterized by consisting of the remainder Fe and an unescapable impurity by mass %.

[Claim 2] Furthermore, steel for induction hardening which is characterized by containing 1 of nickel: $\leq 1.50\%$, Mo: $\leq 0.50\%$, V: $\leq 0.50\%$, and Cr: $\leq 2.0\%$ of sorts, and two sorts or more by mass % and which is excellent in a bending property according to claim 1.

[Claim 3] Furthermore, claim 1 characterized by containing 1 of Nb: $\leq 0.20\%$, Zr: $\leq 0.10\%$, Ta: $\leq 0.20\%$, and aluminum: $\leq 0.10\%$ of sorts, and two sorts or more by mass % or steel for induction hardening which is excellent in a bending property according to claim 2.

[Claim 4] Furthermore, claim 1 characterized by containing 1 of S: $\leq 0.20\%$, Pb: $\leq 0.20\%$, Bi: $\leq 0.20\%$, Te: $\leq 0.10\%$, and calcium: $\leq 0.05\%$ of sorts, and two sorts or more by mass %, claim 2, or steel for induction hardening which is excellent in a bending property according to claim 3.

[Claim 5] The content of an alloy element by mass % C:0.30 – 0.60%, Si: $\leq 0.50\%$, Mn:0.20–2.0%, B:0.0005 – 0.0050%, The ratio of the content of N: $\leq 0.020\%$, Ti: $\leq 0.1\%$, and Ti and N is $3.42 \leq \text{Ti}/\text{N} \leq 8.0$. It consists of the remainder Fe and an unescapable impurity, and is JIS. G $t/r = 0.3$ are materialized between effective case depth t [after the induction hardening tempering processing specified to 0559], components diameter, or thickness r. And the induction hardening components which are characterized by surface hardness being 600 or more Hvs and which are excellent in a bending property.

[Claim 6] Furthermore, the induction hardening components which are excellent in the bending property characterized by containing 1 of nickel: $\leq 1.50\%$, Mo: $\leq 0.50\%$, V: $\leq 0.50\%$, and Cr: $\leq 2.0\%$ of sorts, and two sorts or more by mass % of excelling in a bending property according to claim 5.

[Claim 7] Furthermore, claim 5 characterized by containing 1 of Nb: $\leq 0.20\%$, Zr: $\leq 0.10\%$, Ta: $\leq 0.20\%$, and aluminum: $\leq 0.10\%$ of sorts, and two sorts or more by mass % or the induction hardening components which are excellent in a bending property according to claim 6.

[Claim 8] Furthermore, claim 5 characterized by containing 1 of S: $\leq 0.20\%$, Pb: $\leq 0.20\%$, Bi: $\leq 0.20\%$, Te: $\leq 0.10\%$, and calcium: $\leq 0.05\%$ of sorts, and two sorts or more by mass %, claim 6, or the induction hardening components which are excellent in a bending property according to claim 7.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] This invention relates to the induction hardening components using the induction hardening steel which is excellent in the bending property which is not damaged in brittleness even if a static or dynamically excessive load acts, and its steel materials about the steel materials and components with which perform induction hardening, such as a control actuator section article (steering rack), shafts for power transfer, and circumference components of an automobile guide peg, and a stereo is presented.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Conventionally, the carbon steel whose carbon content is 0.4% – about 0.5%, Cr-Mo steel, or the steel materials of which V addition was done has been used for the steel materials for induction hardening. For example, S45C or S48C is applied to the steering rack for automobiles, and after manufacturing components by machining etc., the reinforcement needed by performing induction hardening tempering processing has been obtained. Steering racks are components indispensable to a steering gear style, since it becomes impossible, and handle actuation may cause a accident resulting in injury or death when the worst when this component is damaged, it is specified as the important Safety Department article, and high dependability and a high strength property are demanded. Moreover, also when a load static [the most important property required of a steering rack] or dynamically excessive acts, it is not damaging in brittleness, and it is required by bending, even if an excessive load acts, and producing deformation that components should not carry out fracture separation completely.

[0003] As for manufacture of a current steering rack, the process of rolled-steel → hardening tempering processing → machining → induction hardening tempering processing → finish-machining is applied. In order to avoid the above brittleness-destruction as much as possible, a rolled steel was not direct processed and induction hardening processed, the toughness of a material was raised by performing hardening tempering processing, and brittleness-destruction is prevented by performing the components processing and induction hardening processing after that.

[0004] However, the further improvement in on the strength is demanded also of the steering rack by loading of a high power engine in recent years etc., and development of the steel materials which attain this is desired. In addition, since hardening tempering processing is applied, while producing the fall of productivity, in order to cause the rise of a manufacturing cost, the present production process requires development of the steel materials which can prevent brittleness-destruction again, even if it omits hardening tempering processing. Moreover, also in induction hardening processing, if latter tempering processing is ommissible, reduction of a manufacturing/cost is enabled and development of the ingredient which can respond to these is desired.

[0005]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] In the components with which induction hardening processings, such as a steering rack, are performed to this invention It is in offering the steel for induction hardening which can prevent fracture by carrying out bending deformation, without producing brittleness-fracture even if an excessive load acts on components, and induction hardening components. Furthermore, the hardening tempering processing currently carried out from the former, Or even if it omits the tempering processing after induction hardening processing, it aims at aiming at reduction of a manufacturing cost by offering the manufacture approach of the steel for induction hardening, and induction hardening components that an equivalent strength property can be acquired.

[0006]

[Means for Solving the Problem] This invention found out that it was effective to make B contain, in order to prevent destruction by generating and carrying out bending deformation of the brittle fracture for solution of the above-mentioned technical problem even if an excessive load acts. Moreover, it found out that this effectiveness was improved further by making Mn, Cr, nickel, Mo, etc. contain. Furthermore, in relation with effective case depth t, components radius, or thickness r obtained by induction hardening tempering processing, when t/r set to 0.3 or more and surface hardness set to 600HV, it found out that the components used by the former carrying out hardening tempering processing and the reinforcement more than equivalent were obtained.

[0007] The content of an alloy element is mass %, the ratio of the content of C:0.30 – 0.60%, Si: \leq 0.50%, Mn:0.20–2.0%, B:0.0005 – 0.0050%, N: \leq 0.020%, Ti: \leq 0.1%, and Ti and N is $3.42 \leq Ti/N \leq 8.0$, and the steel for induction hardening which is excellent in the bending property by this invention consists of the remainder Fe and an unescapable impurity (claim 1). Furthermore, 1 of nickel: \leq 1.50%, Mo: \leq 0.50%, V: \leq 0.50%, and Cr: \leq 2.0% of sorts and two sorts or more can be contained by mass % if needed (claim 2). Furthermore, 1 of Nb: \leq 0.20%, Zr: \leq 0.10%, Ta: \leq 0.20%, and aluminum: \leq 0.10% of sorts and two sorts or more can be contained by mass % if needed (claim 3). Furthermore, 1 of S: \leq 0.20%, Pb: \leq 0.20%, Bi: \leq 0.20%, Te: \leq 0.10%, and calcium: \leq 0.05% of sorts and two sorts or more can be contained by mass % if needed (claim 4).

[0008] The induction hardening components which are excellent in the bending property by this invention The content of an alloy element by mass % C:0.30 – 0.60%, Si: \leq 0.50%, Mn:0.20–2.0%, B:0.0005 – 0.0050%, The ratio of the content of

N: $\leq 0.020\%$, Ti: $\leq 0.1\%$, and Ti and N is $3.42 \leq \text{Ti}/\text{N} \leq 8.0$. It consists of the remainder Fe and an unescapable impurity, and is JIS. $G \frac{t}{r} = 0.3$ are materialized between effective case depth t , components diameter, or thickness r obtained by induction hardening tempering processing specified to 0559. And it is characterized by surface hardness being 600 or more HV (claim 5). Furthermore, 1 of nickel: $\leq 1.50\%$, Mo: $\leq 0.50\%$, V: $\leq 0.50\%$, and Cr: $\leq 2.0\%$ of sorts and two sorts or more can be contained by mass % if needed (claim 6). Furthermore, 1 of Nb: $\leq 0.20\%$, Zr: $\leq 0.10\%$, Ta: $\leq 0.20\%$, and aluminum: $\leq 0.10\%$ of sorts and two sorts or more can be contained by mass % if needed (claim 7). Furthermore, 1 of S: $\leq 0.20\%$, Pb: $\leq 0.20\%$, Bi: $\leq 0.20\%$, Te: $\leq 0.10\%$, and calcium: $\leq 0.05\%$ of sorts and two sorts or more can be contained by mass % if needed (claim 8).

[0009]

[Function] The reason for limitation of each alloy element is explained below.

In order that C may obtain the reinforcement of steel materials and components C:0.30 to 0.60%, it is an indispensable element, and in order to perform induction hardening processing and to obtain 600 or more HV of surface hardness, it is required to make at least 0.30% contain. However, since it became remarkable crack generating it at the time of induction hardening while surface hardness is saturated even if it makes it contain exceeding 0.60%, the upper limit of C content was specified to 0.60%.

[0010] Si: Although Si was added as a deoxidizer $\leq 0.50\%$, since hot-working nature and machinability fell when it was made to contain exceeding 0.5%, the upper limit of Si content was specified to 0.50%.

[0011] Mn: It is the element which raises hardenability sharply, and in order to obtain a predetermined hardening layer in induction hardening processing, it is necessary to make at least 0.20% contain, although added as a deoxidizer like [Mn] Si 0.20 to 2.0%. Moreover, in order that a bending property might improve with the increment in the amount of Mn, 0.5% or more was made to contain preferably, but since it would burn if it is made to contain exceeding 2.0%, and generating of a crack became remarkable, the upper limit of Mn content was specified to 2.0%.

[0012] B:0.0005 – 0.0050% B is a very important element in this invention, and since it has the effectiveness of improving the bending property after induction hardening processing sharply in addition to the improvement effect of hardenability, it is added. In order to acquire this effectiveness, it was required to make B content into 0.0005% or more at least, and since crack generating at the time of hot working would become remarkable if it is made to contain exceeding 0.0050%, the upper limit of B content was specified to 0.0050%.

[0013] N: Although N combined with B in steel $\leq 0.020\%$ and BN was generated, since hardenability and a bending property would fall if BN is generated, the upper limit of N content was specified to 0.020%.

[0014] Ti: By Ti's carrying out a join to N in steel $\leq 0.10\%$, and generating TiN, control that N combines with B, and add in order to maintain the effectiveness to the hardenability and the bending property of B. Under the present circumstances, an addition is determined according to the amount of N, and the addition of Ti needs to make at least 3.42 times as many Ti as this contain to the amount of N. However, since the effectiveness may have generated large-sized TiN and may have caused the fall of fatigue reinforcement while it is saturated even if it makes it contain exceeding 0.1%, the upper limit of Ti content was specified to 0.10%.

[0015] the ratio of Ti and the amount of N — as mentioned above, in order to combine N in steel with Ti, it is necessary to make Ti/N or more into 3.42 at least When it is assumed that Ti and N combine this by 1 to 1, it is the value determined from the weight ratio of Ti and N. Moreover, when the amount of N is 0.015% or more, if the ratio of Ti and N is made high, large-sized TiN will be generated and a fatigue property will be degraded. Moreover, since the inclination would be notably accepted if set to $\text{Ti}/\text{N} > 8.0$, the ratio of Ti/N was specified to $3.42 \leq \text{Ti}/\text{N} \leq 8.0$.

[0016] When t , a components radius, or thickness was set to r for the effective case depth obtained after $t/r = 0.3$ induction-hardening processing, it was checked that a bending property improves, so that t/r was large. However, since the improvement effect of a remarkable bending property was not acquired when t/r is smaller than 0.3, t/r was specified or more to 0.3.

[0017] In order for that it is important making an organization into uniform martensitic structure in order to raise the surface hardness bending property after induction hardening tempering processing to consider as uniform rope martensitic structure in the steel which is found out and contains 0.3 – 0.6% of C at the time of induction hardening, to set surface hardness to 600 or more HV is needed. Moreover, if surface hardness falls, in order to reduce abrasion resistance and a fatigue property in addition to degradation of a bending property, the surface hardness after induction hardening was specified to 600 or more HV.

[0018] Since it has the effectiveness of raising a fatigue property and abrasion resistance, each element of nickel, Mo, V, and Cr can be added if needed, while having the effectiveness of raising the bending property after induction hardening processing. However, even if it makes it contain in large quantities, since the effectiveness is saturated and produces degradation of machinability, it can be added in nickel: $\leq 1.50\%$, Mo: $\leq 0.50\%$, V: $\leq 0.50\%$, and Cr: $\leq 2.0\%$, respectively.

[0019] Each element of Nb, Zr, Ta, and aluminum has the effectiveness of controlling austenite grain growth and maintaining crystal grain minutely, and since it contributes to an improvement of a bending property, it can add it if needed. However, if it is made to add in large quantities, in order to generate a large-sized crystallization object and to reduce a fatigue property and workability, the upper limit of each content was specified to Nb: $\leq 0.20\%$, Zr: $\leq 0.10\%$, Ta: $\leq 0.20\%$, and aluminum: $\leq 0.10\%$.

[0020] Each element of S, Pb, Bi, Te, and calcium is added in order to improve machinability. However, if it is made to contain in large quantities, in order to degrade a bending property, it specified to S: $\leq 0.20\%$, Pb: $\leq 0.20\%$, Bi: $\leq 0.20\%$, Te: $\leq 0.10\%$, and calcium: $\leq 0.05\%$, respectively.

[0021]

[Example] The chemical entity of the steel materials by this invention and comparison steel is shown in Table 1. Each of these steel materials is ingoted by the conventional method, is hot-rolled by the billet after the dissolution / casting, and is rolled out by the steel bar with a diameter of 30mm after that.

[0022]

[Table 1]

(質量%)

| | No | C | Si | Mn | B | N | Ti | その他 | | | | | |
|-------------|----|------|------|------|--------|-------|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| 免 明 鋼 | 1 | 0.31 | 0.25 | 0.75 | 0.0011 | 0.015 | 0.06 | | | | | | |
| | 2 | 0.41 | 0.27 | 0.77 | 0.0013 | 0.017 | 0.07 | | | | | | |
| | 3 | 0.41 | 0.45 | 0.77 | 0.0015 | 0.015 | 0.07 | Al:0.05 | S:0.033 | Pb:0.09 | | | |
| | 4 | 0.40 | 0.25 | 1.25 | 0.0017 | 0.010 | 0.08 | Bi:0.07 | Te:0.08 | S:0.021 | | | |
| | 5 | 0.41 | 0.26 | 1.99 | 0.0017 | 0.010 | 0.04 | Y:0.14 | Ta:0.08 | Bi:0.11 | | | |
| | 6 | 0.42 | 0.27 | 0.55 | 0.0044 | 0.009 | 0.05 | Hi:0.59 | Mo:0.11 | Cr:1.25 | | | |
| | 7 | 0.40 | 0.27 | 0.51 | 0.0005 | 0.007 | 0.07 | Mo:0.31 | Cr:0.21 | | | | |
| | 8 | 0.41 | 0.25 | 0.51 | 0.0016 | 0.010 | 0.05 | Nb:0.04 | Zr:0.04 | | | | |
| | 9 | 0.40 | 0.25 | 0.52 | 0.0017 | 0.015 | 0.06 | Cr:0.88 | | | | | |
| | 10 | 0.59 | 0.25 | 0.51 | 0.0020 | 0.014 | 0.06 | Ni:0.55 | Nb:0.09 | S:0.051 | Pb:0.09 | Ca:0.01 | |
| 比 較 鋼 | 11 | 0.44 | 0.27 | 0.88 | --- | --- | --- | | | | | | |
| | 12 | 0.49 | 0.25 | 0.86 | --- | --- | --- | | | | | | |
| | 13 | 0.48 | 0.25 | 0.79 | --- | --- | --- | Pb:0.11 | S:0.051 | | | | |
| | 14 | 0.45 | 0.25 | 0.81 | --- | --- | --- | Ni:1.14 | Mo:0.22 | | | | |
| | 15 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.78 | 0.0016 | 0.011 | 0.08 | | | | | | |
| | 16 | 0.70 | 0.25 | 0.81 | 0.0017 | 0.009 | 0.06 | | | | | | |
| | 17 | 0.45 | 0.25 | 0.79 | 0.0015 | 0.025 | 0.01 | | | | | | |

[0023] evaluation of high-frequency-induction-hardening nature produced the with a diameter die length [200mm die length of 15mm] cylindrical test piece for high-frequency-induction-hardening sex test by machining from rolled stock, performed induction hardening of cooling:water cooling for the frequency of 10kHz, the output of 55kW, and time amount:1.5 seconds, and performed tempering processing of 2 hours at 150 degrees C next. Furthermore, it sets to the cross section of a test piece center section, and is JIS. G Based on 0559, effective case depth hardened by carburizing treatment was measured, and surface hardness was measured while asking for the ratio with a components radius. This measurement result is shown in Table 2.

[0024]

[Table 2]

| | No. | 表面硬さ (HV) | t/r |
|-------------|-----|--------------|-------|
| 免 明 鋼 | 1 | 631 | 0.39 |
| | 2 | 655 | 0.41 |
| | 3 | 671 | 0.41 |
| | 4 | 666 | 0.44 |
| | 5 | 679 | 0.48 |
| | 6 | 659 | 0.49 |
| | 7 | 689 | 0.49 |
| | 8 | 677 | 0.44 |
| | 9 | 671 | 0.46 |
| | 10 | 717 | 0.49 |
| 比 較 鋼 | 11 | 689 | 0.25 |
| | 12 | 699 | 0.24 |
| | 13 | 691 | 0.22 |
| | 14 | 658 | 0.21 |
| | 15 | 577 | 0.17 |
| | 16 | 744 | 0.25 |
| | 17 | 667 | 0.22 |

[0025] Induction hardening tempering processing of the same conditions was carried out to evaluation of a bending property using the same test piece as the test piece used for the above-mentioned induction hardening trial. In this test piece, the three-point bending test with a supporting-point spacing of 150mm was performed, and the maximum deformation to fracture was measured in the load load point of the center of the supporting point. In addition, the load rate performed two levels of static 0.01mm load for $\frac{1}{2}$, and a 50mm [$\frac{1}{2}$ second] (a part for 3000mm/ $\frac{1}{2}$) shocking load. In addition, the maximum deformation is measured with a dial gage. This measurement result is shown in Table 3.

[0026]

[Table 3]

| No. | 最大曲げ変形量 (mm) | |
|-----|-----------------|--------------|
| | 負荷速度: 0.01mm/分 | 負荷速度: 50mm/秒 |
| | 最大曲げ変形量 (mm) | |
| 発明鋼 | 1 | 5.8 |
| | 2 | 4.5 |
| | 3 | 4.8 |
| | 4 | 5.3 |
| | 5 | 6.1 |
| | 6 | 5.7 |
| | 7 | 6.3 |
| | 8 | 4.8 |
| | 9 | 5.2 |
| | 10 | 4.4 |
| 比較鋼 | 11 | 1.3 |
| | 12 | 1.5 |
| | 13 | 9 |
| | 14 | 7 |
| | 15 | 2.2 |
| | 16 | 1.8 |
| | 17 | 1.7 |

[0027] High-frequency-induction-hardening nature and a bending property were evaluated using the steering rack of a stereo. The production process of a steering rack omits rolled stock → cutting → machining → induction hardening tempering or the tempering after induction hardening processing in invention steel. what manufactured the comparison article at the same process as the above — in addition, components manufacture was performed using the material which applied the same process as the former and performed hardening tempering processing after rolling. Respectively, the hardness property and bending property after induction hardening processing were evaluated. in addition, manufacture of a steering rack — setting — the hardening tempering conditions after rolling — hardening temperature:870 degree-C and maintenance: — 30-minute, cooling:water-cooling, tempering temperature:550 degree-C, and maintenance: — it is cooling:radiationnal cooling for 2 hours. Moreover, induction hardening conditions performed migration hardening of cooling:water cooling frequency:20kHz, output:11.5kW, and a passing speed:10mm/second. The tempering processing after induction hardening is cooling:radiationnal cooling temperature:160 degree C and maintenance:2 o'clock.

[0028] evaluation of the high-frequency-induction-hardening nature by the steering rack — JIS G the hardness measurement based on 0559 — 200mm location from an edge — the cross section hardness to kick was measured and it asked for the ratio of surface hardness, an effective case depth, and the components radius (thickness) r. Moreover, the three-point bending test with a supporting-point spacing of 300mm was performed in bending characterization, 0.01mm bending test by part 50mm/second for /in load rate was performed to it, and the amount of the maximum bending of a load point was measured. The result of the trial by the stereo article was shown in Table 4.

[0029]

[Table 4]

| 鋼種 No. | 製造 工程 | 表面硬さ (HV) | t/R | 最大曲げ変形量 | |
|-----------|----------|--------------|------|------------------|----------------|
| | | | | (mm) | |
| | | | | 負荷速度 0.01mm/分 | 負荷速度 50mm/秒 |
| 発明鋼 | 2 A | 651 | 0.51 | 118 | 97 |
| | B | 644 | 0.48 | 125 | 101 |
| | 4 A | 671 | 0.55 | 148 | 129 |
| | B | 655 | 0.53 | 153 | 116 |
| | 6 A | 677 | 0.47 | 161 | 135 |
| | B | 667 | 0.51 | 166 | 111 |
| | 7 A | 677 | 0.55 | 183 | 137 |
| | 8 A | 681 | 0.57 | 158 | 122 |
| | 9 A | 688 | 0.51 | 142 | 123 |
| | 10 A | 731 | 0.56 | 114 | 87 |
| 比較鋼 | 11 A | 669 | 0.13 | 23 | 11 |
| | B | 641 | 0.16 | 35 | 15 |
| | D | 655 | 0.23 | 49 | 22 |
| | 12 A | 688 | 0.18 | 17 | 4 |
| | B | 651 | 0.14 | 25 | 12 |
| | C | 677 | 0.27 | 33 | 22 |
| | D | 631 | 0.24 | 41 | 25 |

製造工程記号

A:圧延材→切断→機械加工→高周波焼入れ
 B:圧延材→切断→焼成炉→高周波焼入れ→焼もどし
 C:圧延材→焼入れ→焼もどし→切断→機械加工→高周波焼入れ
 D:圧延材→焼入れ→焼もどし→切断→機械加工→高周波焼入れ→焼もどし

[0030] The surface hardness after induction hardening afterbaking return supports Table 2 well with C content so that it may be shown. In order for it not to come out to obtain the surface hardness of 600HV since C content is as low as 0.25% but for comparison steel No.15 to obtain predetermined hardness, it understands that it is necessary to make C beyond this contain. Although invention steel No.1 has the amount of C close to 0.31% and a lower limit, in order to suppose that it is possible to obtain the hardness of 600 or more HV, to be stabilized and to obtain the hardness of 600 or more HV, it is required to consider as 0.30% or more of the amount of C. Moreover, if ratio t/r of an effective case depth and a test piece radius is compared, even if all invention steel processes the same conditions to 0.3 or more being obtained, with comparison steel, an effective case depth will be shallow and predetermined t/r will be obtained by neither. Although comparison steel No.17 performed B addition, it is the example to which sufficient hardenability was not acquired since Ti/N was as low as 0.4, but the effective case depth became shallow. Thus, it is possible by containing predetermined B like invention steel and specifying the ratio of Ti and N to improve an effective case depth.

[0031] Although the bending property of the test piece which carried out induction hardening tempering processing was shown in Table 3, when a load rate was slow, the deformation of invention steel of both in the case of being quick was larger, and excelling in the bending property was checked. It is further tended by adding elements, such as Cr, nickel, and Mo, moreover, to improve a bending property. Moreover, as indicated to Table 2, since the effective case depth of comparison steel is shallow and its t/r is small compared with development steel, the bending property is low.

[0032] The results of an investigation of the induction hardening property by the stereo steering rack and a bending property were shown in Table 4. comparison steel No. -- when manufacture conditions compare in the same ingredient like 11 or 12, by carrying out hardening tempering processing of the rolled stock like before shows that a bending property improves. Moreover, the direction of a bending property which performed tempering processing after induction hardening is improving. although each invention steel carried out components manufacture, without carrying out hardening tempering processing after rolling, it was checked that the bending property which was markedly alike compared with the process article conventionally, and was excellent is shown. Moreover, although t/r does not fill 0.3 with comparison steel but the bending property is falling, the inclination for a bending property to improve is accepted, so that t/r is large.

[0033]

[Effect of the Invention] While it is possible for this invention to improve the reinforcement as induction hardening processing components according to the above example, the effectiveness on industries, such as improvement in the productivity by heat treatment abbreviation -- the abbreviation of hardening tempering processing and the abbreviation of

the tempering processing after induction hardening are enabled — and energy saving, is very remarkable.

[Translation done.]

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(54)【発明の名称】 曲げ特性に優れる高周波焼入れ用鋼ならびにその 鋼材を用いた曲げ特性に優れる高周波焼入れ部品

(57)【要約】 (修正有)

【課題】 静的または動的に過大な荷重が作用しても脆性的に破損することのない、曲げ特性に優れる高周波焼入れ鋼。

【解決手段】 質量%で、C:0.30~0.60, S:≤0.50, Mn:0.20~2.0, B:0.005~0.0050, N:≤0.020, Ti:≤0.1、かつ、Ti, Nの含有量の比率が3.42≤Ti/N≤8.0であり、残部Feおよび不可避不純物からなる、曲げ特性に優れる高周波焼入れ用鋼。

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 合金元素の含有率が質量%で、C: 0.30~0.60%, Si: ≤0.50%, Mn: 0.20~2.0%, B: 0.0005~0.0050%, N: ≤0.020%, Ti: ≤0.1%, かつ、Ti, Nの含有量の比率が3.42 ≤ Ti/N ≤ 8.0であり、残部Feおよび不可避不純物からなることを特徴とする、曲げ特性に優れる高周波焼入れ用鋼。

【請求項2】 さらに、質量%で、Ni: ≤1.50%, Mo: ≤0.50%, V: ≤0.50%, Cr: ≤2.0%のうちの1種または2種以上を含有することを特徴とする、請求項1に記載の曲げ特性に優れる高周波焼入れ用鋼。

【請求項3】 さらに、質量%で、Nb: ≤0.20%, Zr: ≤0.10%, Ta: ≤0.20%, Al: ≤0.10%のうちの1種または2種以上を含有することを特徴とする、請求項1、または請求項2に記載の曲げ特性に優れる高周波焼入れ用鋼。

【請求項4】 さらに、質量%で、S: ≤0.20%, Pb: ≤0.20%, Bi: ≤0.20%, Te: ≤0.10%, Ca: ≤0.05%のうちの1種または2種以上を含有することを特徴とする、請求項1、または請求項2、または請求項3に記載の曲げ特性に優れる高周波焼入れ用鋼。

【請求項5】 合金元素の含有率が質量%で、C: 0.30~0.60%, Si: ≤0.50%, Mn: 0.20~2.0%, B: 0.0005~0.0050%, N: ≤0.020%, Ti: ≤0.1%, かつ、Ti, Nの含有量の比率が3.42 ≤ Ti/N ≤ 8.0であり、残部Feおよび不可避不純物からなり、JIS G 0559に規定される高周波焼入れ焼もどし処理後の有効硬化深さtと部品直径または厚さrとの間にt/r ≥ 0.3が成立し、かつ表面硬さが600HV以上であることを特徴とする、曲げ特性に優れる高周波焼入れ部品。

【請求項6】 さらに、質量%で、Ni: ≤1.50%, Mo: ≤0.50%, V: ≤0.50%, Cr: ≤2.0%のうちの1種または2種以上を含有することを特徴とする、請求項5に記載の曲げ特性に優れる曲げ特性に優れる高周波焼入れ部品。

【請求項7】 さらに、質量%で、Nb: ≤0.20%, Zr: ≤0.10%, Ta: ≤0.20%, Al: ≤0.10%のうちの1種または2種以上を含有することを特徴とする、請求項5、または請求項6に記載の曲げ特性に優れる高周波焼入れ部品。

【請求項8】 さらに、質量%で、S: ≤0.20%, Pb: ≤0.20%, Bi: ≤0.20%, Te: ≤0.10%, Ca: ≤0.05%のうちの1種または2種以上を含有することを特徴とする、請求項5、または請求項6、または請求項7に記載の曲げ特性に優れる

高周波焼入れ部品。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は、操舵部品（ステアリングラック）、動力伝達用シャフト類、自動車足周り部品など高周波焼入れを行って実体に供される鋼材および部品に関し、静的または動的に過大な荷重が作用しても脆的に破損することのない、曲げ特性に優れる高周波焼入れ鋼ならびにその鋼材を用いた高周波焼入れ部品に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】従来、高周波焼入れ用の鋼材には炭素含有量が0.4%~0.5%程度の炭素鋼やCr-Mo鋼またはV添加した鋼材が用いられてきた。例えば、自動車用のステアリングラックには、S45CまたはS48Cが適用されており、機械加工などによって部品を製造した後に、高周波焼入れ焼もどし処理を施すことによって必要とする強度を得ている。ステアリングラックは操舵機構に不可欠な部品であり、この部品が破損した場合にはハンドル操作が不能となり、最悪の場合には人身事故を引き起こす可能性があるために重要保安部品に指定されており、高い信頼性と強度特性が要求されている。また、ステアリングラックに要求される最も重要な特性は、静的または動的に過大な負荷が作用した場合にも脆的に破損しないことであり、過大負荷が作用しても曲がり変形を生ずることによって、部品が完全に破断分離しないことが要求されている。

【0003】現在のステアリングラックの製造は、圧延鋼材→焼入れ焼もどし処理→機械加工→高周波焼入れ焼もどし処理→仕上げ加工の工程が適用されている。上記のような脆的な破壊を極力回避するために、圧延鋼材を直接加工・高周波焼入れ処理せず、焼入れ焼もどし処理を行うことによって素材の韌性を向上させ、その後、その部品加工と高周波焼入れ処理を施すことによって脆的な破壊を防止している。

【0004】しかしながら、近年の高出力エンジンの搭載などにより、ステアリングラックにも更なる強度向上が要求されており、これを達成する鋼材の開発が望まれている。また加えて、現状の製造工程では焼入れ焼もどし処理が適用されているために、生産性の低下を生じるとともに製造コストの上昇を招くため、焼入れ焼もどし処理を省略しても脆的な破壊の防止できる鋼材の開発が要求されている。また、高周波焼入れ処理においても、後段の焼もどし処理が省略できれば製造コストの低減が可能とされ、これらに対応可能な材料の開発が望まれている。

【0005】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】本発明はステアリングラックなど高周波焼入れ処理を施される部品において、部品に過大な負荷が作用しても脆的な破壊を生じるこ

となく、曲げ変形することによって破断を防止することができる高周波焼入れ用鋼ならびに高周波焼入れ部品を提供することにあり、さらには、従来から実施されている焼入れ焼もどし処理、または、高周波焼入れ処理後の焼もどし処理を省略しても同等の強度特性を得ることができる高周波焼入れ用鋼と高周波焼入れ部品の製造方法を提供することによって、製造コストの低減を図ることを目的としている。

【0006】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明は上記課題の解決のために、過大負荷が作用しても脆性破壊を発生せず、曲げ変形することによって破壊を防止するためにはBを含有させることができることを見出した。また、Mn, Cr, Ni, Moなどを含有させることによってさらにこの効果が改善されることを見出した。さらに、高周波焼入れ焼もどし処理により得られる有効硬化深さ t と部品半径または厚さ r との関係において、 t/r が0.3以上、かつ、表面硬さが600HVとすることによって、従来の焼入れ焼もどし処理して使用された部品と同等以上の強度が得られることを見出した。

【0007】本発明による曲げ特性に優れる高周波焼入れ用鋼は、合金元素の含有率が質量%で、C: 0.30~0.60%, Si: ≤0.50%, Mn: 0.20~2.0%, B: 0.0005~0.0050%, N: ≤0.020%, Ti: ≤0.1%、かつ、Ti, Nの含有量の比率が $3.42 \leq Ti/N \leq 8.0$ であり、残部Feおよび不可避不純物からなる(請求項1)。さらに、必要に応じて質量%で、Ni: ≤1.50%, Mo: ≤0.50%, V: ≤0.50%, Cr: ≤2.0%のうちの1種または2種以上を含有することができる(請求項2)。さらに必要に応じて、質量%で、Nb: ≤0.20%, Zr: ≤0.10%, Ta: ≤0.20%, Al: ≤0.10%のうちの1種または2種以上を含有することができる(請求項3)。さらに必要に応じて、質量%で、S: ≤0.20%, Pb: ≤0.20%, Bi: ≤0.20%, Te: ≤0.10%, Ca: ≤0.05%のうちの1種または2種以上を含有することができる(請求項4)。

【0008】本発明による曲げ特性に優れる高周波焼入れ部品は、合金元素の含有率が質量%で、C: 0.30~0.60%, Si: ≤0.50%, Mn: 0.20~2.0%, B: 0.0005~0.0050%, N: ≤0.020%, Ti: ≤0.1%、かつ、Ti, Nの含有量の比率が $3.42 \leq Ti/N \leq 8.0$ であり、残部Feおよび不可避不純物からなり、JIS G 0559に規定される高周波焼入れ焼もどし処理により得られる有効硬化深さ t と部品直径または厚さ r との間に $t/r \geq 0.3$ が成立し、かつ表面硬さが600HV以上であることを特徴とする(請求項5)。さらに、必要に応じて質量%で、Ni: ≤1.50%, Mo: ≤0.50%

%, V: ≤0.50%, Cr: ≤2.0%のうちの1種または2種以上を含有することができる(請求項6)。さらに必要に応じて、質量%で、Nb: ≤0.20%, Zr: ≤0.10%, Ta: ≤0.20%, Al: ≤0.10%のうちの1種または2種以上を含有することができる(請求項7)。さらに必要に応じて、質量%で、S: ≤0.20%, Pb: ≤0.20%, Bi: ≤0.20%, Te: ≤0.10%, Ca: ≤0.05%のうちの1種または2種以上を含有することができる(請求項8)。

【0009】

【作用】以下、に各合金元素の限定理由について説明する。

C: 0.30~0.60%

Cは鋼材および部品の強度を得るために必須の元素であり、高周波焼入れ処理を行い表面硬さ600HV以上を得るためにには少なくとも0.30%を含有させが必要である。しかし、0.60%を越えて含有させても表面硬さは飽和するとともに、高周波焼入れ時の割れ発生が顕著となるために、C含有量の上限を0.60%に規定した。

【0010】Si: ≤0.50%

Siは脱酸剤として添加されるが、0.5%を越えて含有せると熱間加工性と被削性が低下するので、Si含有量の上限を0.50%に規定した。

【0011】Mn: 0.20~2.0%

MnもSi同様に脱酸剤として添加されるが、焼入性を大幅に向上させる元素であり、高周波焼入れ処理において所定の硬化層を得るために少なくとも0.20%を含有させる必要がある。また、Mn量の増加にともなって曲げ特性が改善するために好ましくは0.5%以上を含有せると、2.0%を越えて含有せると焼き割れの発生が顕著となるために、Mn含有量の上限を2.0%に規定した。

【0012】B: 0.0005~0.0050%

Bは本発明において極めて重要な元素であり、焼入性の改善効果に加えて、高周波焼入れ処理後の曲げ特性を大幅に改善する効果を有するため添加する。この効果を得るためにには少なくともB含有量を0.0005%以上とすることが必要であり、また、0.0050%を越えて含有せると熱間加工時の割れ発生が顕著となるために、B含有量の上限を0.0050%に規定した。

【0013】N: ≤0.020%

Nは鋼中のBと結合してBNを生成するが、BNが生成されると焼入性、および曲げ特性が低下するため、N含有量の上限を0.020%に規定した。

【0014】Ti: ≤0.10%

Tiは鋼中のNと結しTiNを生成することによって、NがBと結合することを抑制し、Bの焼入性、および曲げ特性への効果を維持させるために添加する。この際、

T_i の添加量は N 量に応じて添加量が決定され、 N 量に対して少なくとも 3.42 倍の T_i を含有させる必要がある。しかし、0.1% を越えて含有させてもその効果は飽和するとともに、大型の $T_i N$ を生成し、疲れ強度の低下を招くことがあるために、 T_i 含有量の上限を 0.10% に規定した。

【0015】 T_i , N 量の比率

上述のように、鋼中の N を T_i と結合させるためには、少なくとも T_i/N を 3.42 以上とする必要がある。これは、 T_i , N が 1 対 1 で結合すると仮定した場合、 T_i , N の重量比率から決定される値である。また、 N 量が 0.015% 以上の時、 T_i と N の比率を高くすると大型の $T_i N$ を生成し疲れ特性を劣化させる。また、 $T_i/N > 8.0$ になるとその傾向が顕著に認められるため、 T_i/N の比率を $3.42 \leq T_i/N \leq 8.0$ に規定した。

【0016】 $t/r \geq 0.3$

高周波焼入れ処理後に得られる有効硬化深さを t 、部品半径または厚さを r とした時、 t/r が大きいほど曲げ特性が向上することが確認された。しかしながら、 t/r が 0.3 より小さい場合には、顕著な曲げ特性の改善効果が得られないために、 t/r を 0.3 以上に規定した。

【0017】 高周波焼入れ焼もどし処理後の表面硬さ曲げ特性を向上させるためには、組織を均一なマルテンサイト組織とすることが重要であることが見出され、0.3~0.6% の C を含有する鋼において、高周波焼入れ時に均一な網マルテンサイト組織とするためには、表面硬さを 600 HV 以上とすることが必要とされる。また、表面硬さが低下すると、曲げ特性の劣化に加えて、耐摩耗性や疲れ特性を低下させるために、高周波焼

入れ後の表面硬さを 600 HV 以上に規定した。

【0018】 Ni , Mo , V , Cr の各元素は、高周波焼入れ処理後の曲げ特性を向上させる効果を有するとともに、疲れ特性、耐摩耗性を向上させる効果を有するので必要に応じて添加することができる。しかし、大量に含有させてもその効果は飽和し、また、被削性の劣化を生じるため、それぞれ、 $Ni: \leq 1.50\%$, $Mo: \leq 0.50\%$, $V: \leq 0.50\%$, $Cr: \leq 2.0\%$ の範囲で添加することができる。

【0019】 Nb , Zr , Ta , Al の各元素は、オーステナイト結晶粒の成長を抑制し結晶粒を微細に維持する効果を有し、曲げ特性の改善に寄与するので必要に応じて添加することができる。ただし、大量に添加させると、大型の晶出物を生成し疲れ特性や加工性を低下させるため、それぞれの含有量の上限を $Nb: \leq 0.20\%$, $Zr: \leq 0.10\%$, $Ta: \leq 0.20\%$, $Al: \leq 0.10\%$ に規定した。

【0020】 S , Pb , Bi , Te , Ca の各元素は被削性を改善するため添加する。しかし、大量に含有させると曲げ特性を劣化させるため、それぞれ $S: \leq 0.20\%$, $Pb: \leq 0.20\%$, $Bi: \leq 0.20\%$, $Te: \leq 0.10\%$, $Ca: \leq 0.05\%$ に規定した。

【0021】

【実施例】 本発明による鋼材と比較鋼の化学成分を表 1 に示す。これらの鋼材は、いずれも常法によって溶製されたものであり、溶解・鋳造後にビレットに熱間圧延され、その後に直径 30 mm の棒鋼に圧延されたものである。

【0022】

【表 1】

| No | C | Si | Mn | B | N | Ti | その他 | | | |
|----|------|------|------|--------|-------|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 0.31 | 0.25 | 0.75 | 0.0011 | 0.015 | 0.06 | | | | |
| 2 | 0.41 | 0.27 | 0.77 | 0.0013 | 0.017 | 0.07 | | | | |
| 3 | 0.41 | 0.45 | 0.77 | 0.0015 | 0.015 | 0.07 | Al:0.05 | S:0.033 | Pb:0.09 | |
| 4 | 0.40 | 0.25 | 1.25 | 0.0017 | 0.010 | 0.08 | Bi:0.07 | Tc:0.08 | S:0.021 | |
| 5 | 0.41 | 0.26 | 1.99 | 0.0017 | 0.010 | 0.04 | V:0.14 | Ta:0.08 | Bi:0.11 | |
| 6 | 0.42 | 0.27 | 0.55 | 0.0044 | 0.009 | 0.05 | Ni:0.59 | Mo:0.11 | Cr:1.25 | |
| 7 | 0.40 | 0.27 | 0.51 | 0.0005 | 0.007 | 0.07 | Mo:0.31 | Cr:0.21 | | |
| 8 | 0.41 | 0.25 | 0.51 | 0.0016 | 0.010 | 0.05 | Nb:0.04 | Zr:0.04 | | |
| 9 | 0.40 | 0.25 | 0.52 | 0.0017 | 0.015 | 0.06 | Cr:0.88 | | | |
| 10 | 0.59 | 0.25 | 0.51 | 0.0020 | 0.014 | 0.06 | Ni:0.55 | Nb:0.09 | S:0.051 | Pb:0.09 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Ca:0.01 |
| 11 | 0.44 | 0.27 | 0.88 | --- | --- | --- | | | | |
| 12 | 0.49 | 0.25 | 0.86 | --- | --- | --- | | | | |
| 13 | 0.48 | 0.25 | 0.79 | --- | --- | --- | Pb:0.11 | S:0.051 | | |
| 14 | 0.45 | 0.25 | 0.81 | --- | --- | --- | Ni:1.14 | Mo:0.22 | | |
| 15 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.78 | 0.0016 | 0.011 | 0.08 | | | | |
| 16 | 0.70 | 0.25 | 0.81 | 0.0017 | 0.009 | 0.06 | | | | |
| 17 | 0.45 | 0.25 | 0.79 | 0.0015 | 0.025 | 0.01 | | | | |

【0023】高周波焼入性の評価は、圧延材から直径15mm長さ200mmの高周波焼入性試験用の円柱状試験片を機械加工によって作製し、この後に、周波数10kHz、出力55kW、時間：1.5秒、冷却：水冷の高周波焼入れを行い、150°Cで2時間の焼もどし処理を施した。さらに、試験片中央部の横断面においてJ I

S G 0559に準拠して有効硬化層深さを測定し部品半径との比率を求めるとともに表面硬さを測定した。

この測定結果を表2に示す。

【0024】

【表2】

| No. | 表面硬度 (HV) | t/r |
|-------------|--------------|------|
| 発 明 鋼 | 631 | 0.39 |
| | 655 | 0.41 |
| | 671 | 0.41 |
| | 666 | 0.44 |
| | 679 | 0.48 |
| | 659 | 0.49 |
| | 689 | 0.49 |
| | 677 | 0.44 |
| | 671 | 0.46 |
| | 717 | 0.49 |
| 比較 鋼 | 689 | 0.25 |
| | 699 | 0.24 |
| | 691 | 0.22 |
| | 658 | 0.21 |
| | 577 | 0.17 |
| | 744 | 0.25 |
| | 667 | 0.22 |

【0025】曲げ特性の評価には、上記の高周波焼入れ試験に用いた試験片と同一の試験片を用い、同一条件の高周波焼入れ焼もどし処理を行った。この試験片において、支点間隔150mmの3点曲げ試験を行い、支点中央の荷重負荷点において破断までの最大変形量を測定した。なお、負荷速度は、0.01mm/分の静的負荷と

50mm/秒(3000mm/分)の衝撃的な負荷の2水準を行った。なお、最大変形量はダイヤルゲージにより測定したものである。この測定結果を表3に示す。

30 【0026】

【表3】

| No. | 最大曲げ变形量 | |
|-----|----------------|--------------|
| | (mm) | |
| | 負荷速度: 0.01mm/分 | 負荷速度: 50mm/秒 |
| 発明鋼 | 1 | 5.8 |
| | 2 | 4.5 |
| | 3 | 4.8 |
| | 4 | 5.3 |
| | 5 | 6.1 |
| | 6 | 5.7 |
| | 7 | 6.3 |
| | 8 | 4.8 |
| | 9 | 5.2 |
| | 10 | 4.4 |
| 比較鋼 | 11 | 1.3 |
| | 12 | 1.5 |
| | 13 | 9 |
| | 14 | 7 |
| | 15 | 2.2 |
| | 16 | 1.8 |
| | 17 | 1.7 |

【0027】実体のステアリングラックを用いて高周波焼入性および曲げ特性を評価した。ステアリングラックの製造工程は、発明鋼では圧延材→切断→機械加工→高周波焼入れ焼もどし、または、高周波焼入れ処理後の焼もどしを省略したものである。比較品は上記と同一工程で製造したものに加えて、従来と同一の工程を適用し圧延後に焼入れ焼もどし処理を施した素材を用いて部品製造を行った。それぞれ、高周波焼入れ処理後の硬さ特性と曲げ特性を評価した。なお、ステアリングラックの製造においては、圧延後の焼入れ焼もどし条件は、焼入れ温度: 870°C、保持: 30分、冷却: 水冷、焼もどし温度: 550°C、保持: 2時間、冷却: 放冷である。また、高周波焼入れ条件は、周波数: 20 kHz、出力:

30 11.5 kW、移動速度: 10 mm/秒、冷却: 水冷の移動焼入れを行った。高周波焼入れ後の焼もどし処理は、温度: 160°C、保持: 2時、冷却: 放冷である。

【0028】ステアリングラックによる高周波焼入性の評価は、JIS G 0559に準拠した硬さ測定により端部から200mm位置における断面硬さを測定し、表面硬さと有効硬化深さと部品半径(厚さ) r との比率を求めた。また曲げ特性評価には、支点間隔300mmの3点曲げ試験を行い、負荷速度0.01mm/分、50mm/秒による曲げ試験を行い、負荷点の最大曲げ量を測定した。表4に実体品による試験の結果を示した。

【0029】
【表4】

| 鋼種 No. | 製造 工程 | 表面硬さ (HV) | t/r | 最大曲げ変形量 (mm) | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|--------------|------|------------------|----------------|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | 負荷速度 0.01mm/分 | 負荷速度 50mm/秒 | | | | |
| 発明鋼 | 2 A | 651 | 0.51 | 118 | 97 | | | | |
| | 2 B | 644 | 0.48 | 125 | 101 | | | | |
| | 4 A | 671 | 0.55 | 148 | 129 | | | | |
| | 4 B | 655 | 0.53 | 153 | 116 | | | | |
| | 6 A | 677 | 0.47 | 161 | 135 | | | | |
| | 6 B | 667 | 0.51 | 166 | 111 | | | | |
| | 7 A | 677 | 0.55 | 183 | 137 | | | | |
| | 8 A | 681 | 0.57 | 158 | 122 | | | | |
| | 9 A | 688 | 0.51 | 142 | 123 | | | | |
| | 10 A | 731 | 0.56 | 114 | 87 | | | | |
| 比較鋼 | 11 A | 669 | 0.13 | 23 | 11 | | | | |
| | 11 B | 641 | 0.16 | 35 | 15 | | | | |
| | 11 D | 655 | 0.23 | 49 | 22 | | | | |
| | 12 A | 688 | 0.18 | 17 | 4 | | | | |
| | 12 B | 651 | 0.14 | 25 | 12 | | | | |
| | 12 C | 677 | 0.27 | 33 | 22 | | | | |
| | 12 D | 631 | 0.24 | 41 | 25 | | | | |
| | 製造工程記号 | | | | | | | | |
| A:圧延材→切断→機械加工→高周波焼入れ | | | | | | | | | |
| B:圧延材→切断→機械加工→高周波焼入れ→焼もどし | | | | | | | | | |
| C:圧延材→焼入れ焼もどし→切断→機械加工→高周波焼入れ | | | | | | | | | |
| D:圧延材→焼入れ焼もどし→切断→機械加工→高周波焼入れ→焼もどし | | | | | | | | | |

【0030】表2に示されるように、高周波焼入れ後焼もどし後の表面硬さはC含有量と良く対応している。比較鋼No. 15はC含有量が0.25%と低いために、600HVの表面硬さを得ることがなく、所定の硬さをえるためにはこれ以上のCを含ませる必要があることが分かる。発明鋼No. 1はC量が0.31%と下限値に近いが、600HV以上の硬さを得ることが可能とされており、安定して600HV以上の硬さを得るためにには0.30%以上のC量とすることが必要である。また、有効硬化深さと試験片半径との比率t/rを比較すると、発明鋼は全て0.3以上が得られるのに対して、同一条件の処理を行っても、比較鋼ではいずれも有効硬化深さは浅く、所定のt/rが得られない。比較鋼No. 17はB添加を行ったが、Ti/Nが0.4と低いために十分な焼入性が得られず、有効硬化深さが浅くなつた例である。このように、発明鋼のように所定のBを含有し、Ti, Nの比率を規定することによって有効硬化深さを向上することが可能である。

【0031】表3には高周波焼入れ焼もどし処理した試

験片の曲げ特性を示したが、負荷速度が遅い場合、速い場合の両者とも発明鋼の変形量の方が大きく、曲げ特性に優れていることが確認された。また、Cr, Ni, Mo等の元素を添加することによってさらに曲げ特性は改善される傾向にある。また、表2に記載したように、開発鋼に比べて比較鋼の有効硬化深さは浅くt/rが小さいために、曲げ特性が低くなっている。

【0032】表4に実体ステアリングラックによる高周波焼入れ特性と曲げ特性の調査結果を示した。比較鋼No. 11, または12のように同一材料において製造条件で比較すると、従来のように圧延材を焼入れ焼もどし処理することによって、曲げ特性は向上することが分かる。また、高周波焼入れ後の焼もどし処理を施した方が曲げ特性は向上している。発明鋼はいずれも圧延後に焼入れ焼もどし処理することなく部品製造したが、従来工程品に比べて格段に優れた曲げ特性を示すことが確認された。また、比較鋼ではt/rが0.3を満たしておらず、曲げ特性が低下しているが、t/rが大きいほど曲げ特性が向上する傾向が認められる。

【0033】

【発明の効果】以上の実施例により本発明は、高周波焼入れ処理部品としての強度を改善することが可能とされるとともに、焼入れ焼もどし処理の省略、高周波焼入れ

後の焼もどし処理の省略が可能とされるなど、熱処理省略による生産性の向上、省エネルギー化など産業上の効果は極めて顕著なものである。

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